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MAR 21 1922

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FAIR LADY /

Photoplay in seven reels /

Based on Rex Beach's novel "The Net" /

Scenario by Dorothy Farnum /

Directed by Kenneth Webb /

Author of photoplay (under Section 62)

Bennett Pictures Corporation of the U.S. ✓

MAR 21 1922

FAIR LADY

ADAPTED FROM

REX BEACH'S

NOVEL

" THE NET. "

Sicily had long suffered from the tyranny of a secret society of evildoers, headed by an unidentified man, known by the name of Belisario Cardi. Among the chief sufferers were Countess Margherita del Terra Nuova and her fiance, Count Martinello. Cardi had been showering Margherita with unwelcome gifts, always sealed with his mystic seal.

On the eve of the wedding of Martinello and Margherita, while all the guests were assembled for the festivities and the bride was preparing for the ceremony, the bridegroom hastened from his adjoining Castle, accompanied by his American friend, Norvin Blake. On the way, as they were passing through a lonely ravine, they were attacked by Cardi's band and Count Martinello and his servant Riccardo, were killed and Blake left, badly wounded, for dead. On regaining consciousness, Blake tried to revive his friend, then, realizing that he was past mortal aid, staggered to the Castle to break the terrible tidings. Margherita, learning of the assassination of her fiance, turned on Blake, in an outburst of fierce Sicilian anger and denounced him as a coward, for not having died with his friend. Her maid, Lucrezia, daughter of the dead servant, cursed him. Later, that night, before the altar which was to have been the scene of the wedding, Margherita and Lucrezia swore the oath of vendetta, and Margherita swore never to become the wife of any man, until the slayer of her fiance had been brought to justice.

Five years later, in New Orleans, Norvin Blake, who had become the president of the Cotton Exchange, was called upon to help the Government of the city combat the evildoers, who had fled Sicily and sought refuge in New Orleans, where they were still carrying on their nefarious deeds. Among the committee gathered together to investigate the state of affairs was Caesar Maruffi, President of the Italian American Bank and Count Modena, likewise a Sicilian. Blake and Maruffi were business friends of some time. Maruffi confided to Blake that he was in love and that that night at a party given by a mutual friend, he would introduce him to the lady of his heart.

At the party, Blake discovered to his amazement, that Maruffi's adored one was Margherita del Terra Nuova, now using an assumed name, in order to conceal her rank and to carry on her search for the slayer of her fiance, according to her vow of vengeance, using her works of mercy as a means of obtaining information. Blake, who even in the Sicilian days, had struggled against an infatuation for the betrothed of his friend, Martinello, tells her that he had gone back to Sicily to seek her to

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convince her that he had not be guilty of cowardice at the death of his friend, but that he had been unable to find any trace of her. He made many protestations of his love for her. During the evening, the daughter of the house, finding that her ardent swain, Count Modena, was showing too much attention to the beautiful Margherita, decided to turn the tables and make him jealous by paying a great deal of attention to the unwilling Blake. Blake, who had been asked by the Police Department to meet the Chief and his men at the dock that night, to identify a stevedore, who was supposed to have been implicated in the assassination of Count Martinello, told her that he was obliged to leave, and Myra Nell, the girl, still plaguing the recreant swain, threw her arms round his neck, telling him that she is going to force him to stay at her party. Her uncle, coming upon this scene took it for granted that they were engaged and announced their engagement with much gusto, as Blake was a very good parti for his niece. The announcement of Blake's engagement

following so closely on the heels of his statement to her that she was the only woman he had ever loved, caused Margherita to have an added contempt for Blake and she left with Maruffi.

On the dock, the stevedore, Narcone, duly identified by Blake as being of the assailants of the wedding party on the fatal night of the murder, was arrested after a desperate struggle, in which Blake prevented his escape by a hand-to-hand battle. The next morning saw Blake the hero of the morning press and Margherita felt that his heroism was a tribute to his love for her. Lucrezia, however, treated the account of his bravery with contempt, saying, "Once a coward, always a coward."

Margherita was warned by one of her patients in the Italian quarter that Narcone would be released on insufficient evidence and that an attempt was to be made to kill the Chief of Police. This warning she communicated ~~with~~ to the Police department by an anonymous letter signed "One Who Knows". At the trial, witness after witness was brought forward to establish an alibi for Narcone. The Chief received the "One Who Knows" letter and Blake made the contents of the letter known to the judge in a vain effort to secure justice for his dead friend. After the Court had adjourned, Blake came upon Modena and Myra Nell, who had made up their lover's spat and gave them his blessing and heaved a sigh of relief that he was free of his unwelcome engagement.

The following day, Maruffi called on Margherita, and begged her to marry him and leave for Europe ~~immediately~~ immediately on a honeymoon trip. Margherita became suspicious and led him on to discover what he was in such a hurry to leave New Orleans for. As he ~~tried~~ tried to embrace her, his ring caught in her lace scarf and, to her horror, she saw the seal of Cardi within the face of the ring. Feigning not to have seen it, she sends him away, promising to send him an answer at the Cafe Garibaldi, an Italian rendez-vous in the quarter. After his departure, she endeavored to get the Chief of Police on the phone, but he had already left for the night. In despair she went to Blake's house, to warn him of the discovery of Cardi.

During the afternoon, Blake had been sitting in his library pouring out his soul on paper to Margherita. As he stooped to gather up the petals of a rose which Margherita had given him years before,

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Narcone, who had crept up on the porch of the house, fired through the window, and Blake's sudden movement saved him from the bullet of Narcone, who made his escape.

On Margherita's arrival, she told Blake all that had occurred. Discovering that there had been an attempt to kill him, she confessed that she loved him. Blake ordered the car to go and find the Chief and arrest Cardi (Maruffi) at the Garibaldi. As he did so, the news came over the wire that the Chief had been assassinated a short while before. Horrified at the news, but feeling that Maruffi must be placed in the hands of the law, Blake decided to arrest Maruffi himself, with the aid of some plain clothes men. Margherita insisted on accompanying him on his errand.

At the Garibaldi, the arrest of Maruffi was effected with little trouble, but once outside, Maruffi enlisted the sympathy of the crowd, and with their aid, made his escape. Modena, attracted by the commotion, saw that the time had come to ask for the help of all good Italians and so appealed to them that he was able to sway them to the cause of law and order.

Blake had left the Garibaldi after the arrest of Maruffi, and had not seen the escape. He joined Margherita at her apartment, where they were soon disturbed by the sound of the mob outside. The mob, led by Modena, had pursued Maruffi, but had lost track of him not far from Margherita's house. On the balcony, Blake and Margherita were watching the mob, when Maruffi burst into the room. Blake seeing him, rushed through the window into the room, locking the window to prevent Margherita from following him. A desperate struggle between the two men ensued, the unarmed Blake against Maruffi armed with a gun. Blake fell, desperately wounded by Maruffi, and Maruffi, hearing the approaching mob, hurled the now empty gun at Margherita and made for the hall to make his escape. On the landing outside, Lucrezia, startled by the sound of the shots, had heard Blake call Maruffi by the name of Cardi and realized that her was the slayer of her father. The mob had gathered below in the hall, and Maruffi held them at bay with the menace of a lighted lamp, which he held poised over the cowering men below. The half-crazed Lucrezia dagger in hand, rushed forward to put an end to the assassin, when the rail against which he was leaning heavily, gave way, precipitating him to the hall below, amidst the flames of the exploding lamp. In the room above, Margherita had succeeded in reviving the unconscious Blake, with her loving care.

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MAR 21 1922

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